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February 4, 2003

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Confirmed

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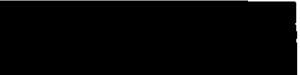
Distribution Center

Dear Chairman Powell:

I'm writing in regard to Qwest's proposal to provide long distance service in South Dakota. **As** a homeowner with multiple expenses every month, I look forward to Qwest's re-entry into the long distance market because it would allow Qwest to bundle their local and long distance telephone and Internet services and provide them for a flat rate.

These telecommunications services are indispensable parts of life and as such, they should be easy and affordable for me to access. By simply allowing Qwest to compete in the long distance market, prices for these services will undoubtedly go down across the telecommunications market. To be competitive, companies will have to work harder to retain their customers who will have the option of changing providers if their needs are not met. **As** a result, service and prices in all areas (long distance, local and Internet) will likely improve.

If Qwest is allowed re-entry into the long distance market, maybe they will offer me a plan that fits my needs. Maybe another company will offer a better plan. Regardless, as the consumer, I should be allowed to make that decision based on the companies that are willing to meet my needs. The more companies fighting for my business, the better off I'll be. Therefore, I urge you to let Qwest join that fight soon.



Marian M. Shaffer
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